

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In particular, a stable binding loop having a high affinity for fibrin is disclosed, having the formula: Cys-X₂-X₃-X₄-X₅-X₆-X₇-X₈-Cys (SEQ ID NO: 2), wherein X₂ is Pro, Arg, Asn, Asp, Gln, Gly, Phe, Ser, Thr, or Tyr; preferably X₂ is Pro; X₃ is Ala, Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Gly, Ile, Leu, Met, Phe, Pro, Ser, Thr, Trp, Tyr, or Val; preferably X₃ is Asp, Glu, Gly, Met, or Trp; X₄ is Glu, Gly, Lys, Ser, or Tyr[,]; most preferably Glu; X₅ is Pro, Asp, Glu, Asn, Gln, [[Glu,]] Gly, Leu, Lys, Ser, Thr, or Tyr; preferably [[,]] [[X₈]] X₅ is Asn, Asp, Glu, Pro, or Ser; most preferably [[,]] X₅ is Pro; X₆ is Arg, Gly, or Trp; X₇ is Leu, Ile, Lys, Met, Asn, Gln, Pro, Ser, Thr, or Val; preferably X₇ is Leu or Thr; and X₈ is Ile, Leu, Phe, Trp, or Tyr.